

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 EB-07 EA-07 /101 W

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R 161630Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6330

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2262

E.O. 7 652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGAA MR, US

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS WITH MAURITANIANS

REF: STATE 220772

SUMMARY: DURING SEPT. 15 MEETING WHICH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ISSUES EXPECTED TO COME UP AT 31ST UNGA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS RESPONDED TO FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: SOUTHERN AFRICA, WESTERN SAHARA, INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ), DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND UNCTAD IV. END SUMMARY.

1. SOUTHERN AFRICA: MOUKNASS NOTED "FLAGRANT" VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ADDING THAT MAURITANIA WILL OFFER MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO HELP BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE. IN CASE OF "ZIMBABWE", HE SAID UK SHOULD BEAR BURDEN OF CORRECTING SITUATION. (MOUKNASS DID NOT MENTION SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS). MOUKNASS CITED "ILLEGAL" SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA, ADDING THAT MAURITANIA FULLY SUPPORTS SWAPO IN ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL IN NAMIBIA. MOUKNASS CASTIGATED SOUTH AFRICA FOR PERMITTING SOCIAL SYSTEM WHICH ACCORDS RIGHTS TO

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PEOPLE ACCORDING TO COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. AT SAME TIME,

HE ADMITTED THAT WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE ALSO AFRICANS AND SOLUTION TO PROBLEM MUST BE FOUND WITH THIS IN MIND. (GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY PAPER IN MAURITANIA CONTINUES TO GIVE UNPRECEDENTEDLY HEAVY COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S SOUTHERN AFRICAN EFFORTS--NOUAKCHOTT 2160 AND 2225.)

2. WESTERN SAHARA: MOUKNASS LISTENED VERY INTENTLY TO TALKINGPOINTS ON SAHARA QUESTION, SMILED CONTENTEDLY AT CONCLUSION OF BRIEF PRESENTATION, AND SAID NOTHING WHATSOEVER. (BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR MAURITANIA AT 31ST UNGA WILL BE SAHARA QUESTION.)

3. IOPZ: GIRM POLICY ON IOPZ IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH US POSITION, MOUKNASS SAID. FIRM SUPPORTS IOPZ AND WANTS ALL GREAT POWERS, SPECIFICALLY CITING USSR AND US, TO STAY OUT OF INDIAN OCEAN. HE ADDED THAT AREA SHOULD BE A ZONE OF NEUTRALITY.

4. DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: IT WAS APPARENT FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS THAT NEITHER IT NOR GIRM HAS FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF SPECIAL GKON DISARMAMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT A WEAK NATION LIKE MAURITANIA IS NOT ABLE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE ON SUCH ISSUES. NEVERTHELESS, MOUKNASS SAID GIRM WOULD STUDY QUESTION SO THAT IT WILL HAVE POSITION DEVELOPED BY TIME OF UNGA.

5. UNCTAD IV: ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT COMMENT ON PRESENTATION DEALING WITH UNCTAD IV, HIS REACTION SUGGESTED THAT HE DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH TALKING POINTS.

6. KOREA: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION WAS REPORTED NOUAKCHOTT 2251. SHINN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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